

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 03856 111841Z
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /048 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2196
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3856

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OAS, NU, VE, CS
SUBJ: CARAZO VNICARAGUA

REF: STATE 228502

1. I SPOKE WITH CARAZO SEPT 9 AND CONFIRMED THAT AS THINGS NOW STAND, COSTA RICA WOULD BE INCLINED TO JOIN US IN SUPPORTING VENEZUELAN CALL FOR MFM, UNLESS SUITABLE POSTPONEMENT PROVES POSSIBLE. CARAZO SAID HE WOULD KEEP OPTIONS OPEN UNTIL LAST MINUTE. I GAVE HIM THE PRELIMINARY HEAD COUNT BASED ON SOUNDINGS IN WASHINGTON.

2. HE CALLED ME ON SEPT 10 TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION AGAIN, BUT SAID HE HAD NO FURTHER NEWS. I CONVEYED TO HIM FACT THAT BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND IN MANAGUA WE HAVE INDICATED TO GON SUPPORT TO HIS INITIATIVE AND RELAYED TO HIM THE SUBSTANCE OF GON INITIAL REACTIONS. HE SAID HE WAS NOT SURPRISED BY SOMOZA'S RESPONSE. I QUERIED HIM AS TO UNDATED UPI STORY HERE THAT PEREZ HAD ACCEDED TO CARAZO'S REQUEST THAT ICITATIVE BE POSTPONED. CARAZO HAD NO IDEA OF BASIS FOR STORY AS HE REPORTED HE HAD NO FURTHER WORD WHATSOEVER FROM PEREZ.

3. IN FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH CARAZO THIS MORNING, SEPT 11, HE ADVISED THAT HE IS TRYING TO CONTACT GOV AMBASSADOR HERE TO DETER-
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MINE THAT COUNTRY'S CURRENT POSITION. HE SAID THAT HIS OWN COUNT NOW REACHES 13 IN FAVOR OF CONVENING MFM, INCLUDING US AND COSTA RICA, IF NO POSTPONEMENT IS POSSIBLE. THOUGH HE STILL STRONGLY FAVORS THE LATTER COURSE OF ACTION. HE HAD NO VIEW ON WHETHER SUNDAY'S EVENTS IN NICARAGUA MIGHT AFFECT THIS SITUATION.

4. I INFORMED HIM OF THE APPROACHES AMBASSADOR SOLAUM WILL BE

MAKING ON THE CA INITIATIVE WITH "RESPONSIBLE OPPOSITION LEADERS" IN NICARAGUA. HE BELIEVES THIS TO BE IMPORTANT SINCE HIS OWN PRE-LIMINARY SOUNDINGS, PRESUMABLY WITH OR BY RENE LACAYO DEBAYLE AND ALVARO GONZALEZ, HAVE PRODUCED "ABSOLUTELY NOTHING, NOTHING" ENCOURAGING TO DATE.

5. RELATED TO THE ABOVE, I HAVE JUST BEEN VISITED BY EX-FONMIN FACIO WHO HAS NO NEW IDEAS TO OFFER, BUT HAS BEEN LUKEWARM TO ANY CA INITIATIVE, WHILE ENCOURAGING OAS CONSIDERATION. AS OF NOW, HE SEES LITTLE HOPE FOR THE LATTER TO PRODUCE MUCH USEFUL IN THE SHORT RUN EITHER AND I TRIED TO CONVINCE HIM TO RE-EXAMINE THE CA INITIATIVE AS A JUSTIFIABLE ALTERNATIVE, APPROPRIATELY FOUNDED ON THE SUB-REGION'S LEGITIMATE SECURITY CONCERNS.
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